

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OES-07 ACDA-12 /104 W
-----008592 062132Z /41

R 051852Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8039
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 05113

FOR ED MEZVINSKY FROM AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM CI
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TRUCCO APRIL 5

1. AS WE DISCUSSED, I MET THIS MORNING WITH AMBASSADOR TRUCCO OF CHILE WHO WAS AWARE OF YOUR IMPENDING TRIP. THERE ARE SEVERAL POINTS TO CONSIDER WHICH MAY BE OF VALUE IN PLANNING YOUR OBJECTIVES: (1) ONE OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUES IN CHILE IS ITS HISTORIC CONFRONTATION WITH ARGENTINA REGARDING THE BEAGLE CHANNEL ISLANDS. AFTER YEARS OF EFFORT, THE CONTROVERSY WAS SUBMITTED TO ARBITRATION. THE RECENT DECISION FAVORED CHILE BUT ARGENTINA RENOUNCED IT AND, IN THE JUDGMENT OF TRUCCO, IS USING THE PRESENT WEAKNESS OF CHILE IN INTERNATIONAL MATTERS TO FORCE A MODIFICATION OF THE ARBITRATION AWARD. (2) A COROLLARY OF THIS PROBLEM INVOLVES BOLIVIA WHICH HAS RECENTLY BROKEN OFF DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN OUTLET TO THE SEA FOR BOLIVIA. TRUCCO BELIEVES THAT BOLIVIA IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF BOTH THE ARGENTINE CONTROVERSY AND THE WEAK INTERNATIONAL POSITION OF CHILE. THIS BACK-
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GROUND, IF VERIFIED WITH OUR EMBASSY IN CHILE, COULD BE HELPFUL IN PRESSINGFOR OUR OBJECTIVES RELATING TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. IF CHILE CAN RESOLVE ITS PROBLEM WITH THE WORKING GROUP AND HAVE ITSELF REMOVED AS A SPECIAL ITEM ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AGENDA, IT WILL HAVE RESTORED AN IMPORTANT MEASURE OF ITS INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTABILITY WHICH WILL STRENGTHEN

IT IN ITS POLITICAL CONFRONTATION WITH BOLIVIA AND ARGENTINA.

2. THE OBJECTIVE THEREFORE IS TO HAVE PINOCHET INVITE THE WORKING GROUP. AS YOU KNOW THE WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN (ALLANA) IS UNACCEPTABLE SYMBOLICALLY. THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ALLANA HAS TROUBLE WITH HIS OWN GOVERNMENT SINCE HIS SON WAS IN BHUTTO'S CABINET. TRUCCO TELLS ME THAT PAKISTAN HAS ASSURED HIM THAT ALLANA WILL NO LONGER REPRESENT PAKISTAN IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE FIVE-COUNTRY WORKING GROUP IS ECUADOR WHOSE REPRESENTATIVE HAS BEEN ILL AND UNAVAILABLE. THE HOPE THEREFORE IS THAT PINOCHET CAN BE CONVINCED TO INVITE THE WORKING GROUP TO CHILE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ONLY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF AUSTRIA, SENEGAL AND SIERRA LEONE WILL ACCEPT THE INVITATION. THIS, COMBINED WITH THE AMNESTY AND RELEASE OF PRISONERS ANNOUNCED TODAY IN CHILE MAY BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE BALANCE AFFECTING CHILE'S POSITION BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. I SUGGESTED TO TRUCCO THAT CHILE HAD A GREAT OPPORTUNITY IN STRAIGHTENING OUT ITS OWN INTERNATIONAL STATUS TO CREATE A PRECEDENT IN ACCEPTING THE WORKING GROUP THAT WOULD GIVE WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES A STRONG ARGUMENT IN ECOSOC, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO PRESSURE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO COOPERATE
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WITH LEGITIMATE INVESTIGATIONS.

3. THE SUCCESSFUL EFFORT REMOVING CUBA AS A SPONSOR OF THE CHILEAN RESOLUTION HAS BEEN APPRECIATED. IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE FUND IS NOT A VIABLE PROJECT AND WILL NOT BE PURSUED. THE CHILEANS ARE AWARE OF THE ECOSOC CALENDAR AND ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE APRIL-MAY MEETING OF ECOSOC WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ITS COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AND NOT ENDANGER THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA05113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780149-0638
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780491/aaaaczfq.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 31fe7cb6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3071676
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TRUCCO APRIL 5
TAGS: SHUM, CI, (TRUCCO, MANUEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/31fe7cb6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014